

**Position Statement on Assisted Suicide
Providence Health & Services**

EXHIBIT NO. 5
DATE 2/9/11
BY S. Bille

Providence Health & Services supports Senate Bill 116, effectively prohibiting Physician Assisted Suicide.

- **We do not believe health care providers should ever be put in a position of aiding a patient in taking his or her own life.**
- **We would rather advocate for increased support and resources for hospice and palliative care programs that provide compassionate, pain-relieving comfort and care for those who are dying.**
- **We believe people facing serious illness and approaching the end of life should receive care that is compassionate, competent and that addresses the needs of the whole person – body, mind and spirit.**

Providence Health & Services Values

The Providence position on physician-assisted suicide is grounded in our basic values:

- **Respect for the sacredness of life**
- **Compassionate care of dying and vulnerable persons**
- **Respect for the integrity of medical, nursing and allied health professions.**
- We believe that people are stewards of their own lives, but we may not unduly prolong nor hasten the natural process of dying.
- We also recognize the right and responsibility of each person to make decisions regarding his or her medical treatment.
- We will not participate in any treatments or activities that go against our Providence values.

For more information about the Providence position on physician assisted suicide, please contact

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